

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 PCH-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20

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S/ PRS: CBRAV (INFO)

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IO/ P: FBLACHLY

NEA/ EGY: MSTERNER

EUR/ P: ESAVAGE

H: KFOLGER (INFO)

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O 102014 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
APRIL 10, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. DO YOU HAVE REPORTS OF ANTI- AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE U. S. EMBASSY IN BEIRUT RELATED TO THESE ISRAELI RAIDS?

A. NO, IT TURNS OUT THAT WE DO NOT HAVE REPORTS OF A DEMONSTRATION AT THE EMBASSY THIS MORNING.

LET ME ADD TO THAT ON BACKGROUND THAT AS A RESULT OF THE STATEMENT PUT OUT BY THE PLO, THERE WERE APPARENTLY A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHOM WE TOOK TO BE PALESTINIAN FOR THE MOST PART, WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE THAT INTENTION -- BUT WHO WERE, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, DIVERTED.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A COMMENT ON THE RAID ITSELF?

A- WELL, THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS FOR VIOLENCE IN THE RECENT PAST, AND WE OURSELVES HAVE, ON MANY OCCASIONS, DEPLORED WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL THIS CYCLE OF VIOLENCE, WHICH HAS TAKEN SUCH A HEAVY TOLL IN HUMAN LIFE AND SUFFERING. AND WE MUST REGRETFULLY DEPLORE IT AGAIN.

WE WOULD, SHOULD THIS PROVE TO BE THE CASE, MOST ESPECIALLY REGRET ANY LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES.

LET ME COME BACK FOR A MOMENT TO THE ALLEGATION THAT SOME OF THE ELEMENTS OF THE ISRAELI FORCE TOOK REFUGE IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT. THAT ALLEGATION IS UTTERLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. IT IS MISCHIEVOUS, AND IT HAS BEEN DENIED CATEGORICALLY BY OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT. IT IS SUFFICIENTLY MISCHIEVOUS THAT WE HOPE IT WILL NOT BE GIVEN CREDENCE IN THE AREA, AS ALLEGATIONS IN PREVIOUS YEARS
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WITH RESPECT TO ALLEGED AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT WERE.

LET ME ADD TO THAT ON BACKGROUND THAT, OBVIOUSLY, I HAVE SOME REFERENCE HERE TO THE ALLEGATION THAT IN 1967 THE UNITED STATES WAS IN SOME WAY INVOLVED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE ON THE GROUND. THAT ALLEGATION, AS MANY OF YOU WILL RECALL, WAS USED BY A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS TO EXPLAIN THEIR ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE UNITED STATES FOLLOWING THE JUNE WAR AND, IN SOME CASES, TO EXPLAIN THE BREAKING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

THAT ALLEGATION IS NO LONGER WIDELY BELIEVED. IT LED TO PRECIPITOUS ACTION WHICH MANY GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THIS ONE, REGRET.

Q. DO YOU MEAN BY THAT THAT YOU WERE EXPECTING SOME ARAB STATES TO BREAK OFF RELATIONS?

A. NO. ABSOLUTELY NOTHING LEADS US TO LOOK TO THAT AS AN EVENTUALITY.

Q. YOU'RE DEPLORING WHAT HAPPENED IN BEIRUT. I TAKE IT THAT YOU ARE NOT RESTRICTING THIS STATEMENT TO WHAT HAPPENED IN BEIRUT BUT IT INCLUDES WHAT HAPPENED A COUPLE OF HOURS EARLIER IN NICOSIA.

A. WELL, I HAD REFERENCE AT THE OUTSET TO A CYCLE OF VIOLENCE IN WHICH THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF RECENT EXAMPLES.

Q. CHARLES, THERE'S AN ALLEGATION TOO OF U. S. INTELLIGENCE PARTICIPATION IN THE ISRAELI RAIDS. DOES YOUR DENIAL COVER THAT?

A. ABSOLUTELY.

Q. COMING BACK TO THE MIDDLE EAST, HAS THE STATEMENT OF YOURS BEEN MADE KNOWN TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, EITHER THROUGH AMBASSADOR DINITZ OR IN TEL AVIV?

A. IF YOUR QUESTION WAS WHETHER THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE ISRAELI AND LEBANESE
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GOVERNMENTS, THE ANSWER IS: YES, WITH BOTH. BUT I WILL NOT GO FURTHER INTO DETAILS.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US THE SOURCES OF THESE ALLEGATIONS BY THE UNITED STATES?

A. A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE PLO IN BEIRUT THIS MORNING.
THIS WAS A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE PLO HIGH COMMAND IN
BEIRUT THIS MORNING. END QUOTE. ROGERS

NOTE BY OC/ T: POUCHED BAGHDAD AND SANAA.

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